



Newsletter

This month,

On March 20th Rome community members convened on the second floor of the Capitol Theatre to learn about the upcoming projects planned for the city. The open house style meeting allowed the public to explore several stations offering information and interactive opportunities to provide feedback.



Project locations include Erie Boulevard, the South James Street neighborhood, East and West Dominick Streets and the Erie Canal waterfront, including Bellamy Harbor Park. One station featured a map of two outlined Brownfield Opportunity Areas, and participants were asked to note issues and opportunities for each of them. Comments included the need for improved streetscapes on Erie Boulevard, a kiosk at the Navigation Center to highlight features of Rome, and housing along the waterfront along with additional retail spaces for the community.

Another station featured "strategic sites" such as Rome Turney, Rod Mill, Rome Cable, and the Liberty/George Street Parking Garage. Participants were urged to share their thoughts on what new uses they would like to see at each site. Written in large text in the middle of the display board at this station was the phrase

Share your thoughts on what new uses you would like to see on each site (i.e. hotel, restaurant, housing, ect.).

<p>HOTEL/RESTAURANT Trees Here's a lovely wedding venue / Site - Wood MARKET APPS Separate Apartments - 4-5 small shops Consider art studio *Add school</p>	<p>Underground 2nd floor 530 parking area</p>	<p>Restaurant - Possible by Boat / Snամboat Trees outdoor space thin trees along the water, add picnic tables. restaurant - store for boat Event Space Historical Dining Housing Galleries, trendy shops for tourists for seniors family activity</p>
<p>EXPERIENCES! not things! Elder friendly community!</p>	<p>Make 2300 level 2nd fl. 1st floors Senior housing Trees MIXED-USE (retail) restaurants bike hire need parking for jobs, senior Tour Buses Jamboree shops! floor housing Upward slope as parking</p>	

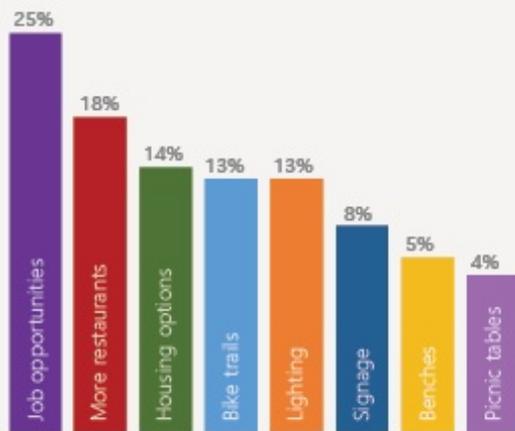
"Experiences Not Things!", reflecting the broader consensus among community members that the reuse of the strategic sites need to include features that can make Rome a tourist area. Other stations had the public vote for which visual aspects they preferred in

wayfinding signage, streetscape amenities, and bicycle lanes.

The final station asked Romans to rank which areas of future investment should be prioritized. The results can be seen below-

INVESTMENT PRIORITIZATION

Attendees at the public meetings were asked to place "Rome dollars" in jars that represented the topic areas where they felt future investment should be focused along Rome's waterfront. Based on the totals, investment in jobs was identified as the most important, followed by investment in new restaurants and housing options.



To stay up to date with the projects in Rome visit, [Rome Rises](#)

Hollywood Lights Shine on Rome

Rome natives Mark and Anna Casadei of Awesome Monkey Productions (AMP) announced that the horror film *Murder Hill* will be produced in their hometown this year in coordination with FireRock Bay Pictures.

They will seek to engage local community members throughout the filming process, and AMP will host casting calls for roles and extras in the film starting in spring. The screenplay was written and produced by Mark and Anna Casadei and is set to be filmed this spring/summer.

To emphasize their dedication to the community, Wayne River Sorrell, has been added to the cast list. Wayne, a local Roman and graduate of Oriskany High School, left the area two years ago to pursue his acting career in Los Angeles.

Producer Mark Casadei said, "I can't tell you how excited I was to be able to grab a local and cast them and the fact I was able to meet him here in Hollywood makes for the perfect setup." Another fellow Central New Yorker, actor Eric Wilson of Ilion is also included in the production.



AMP hopes to spark interest in the arts in the community and offer a unique opportunity to highlight Rome as a viable place for future productions. Mayor Jacqueline M. Izzo stated, "This is a very exciting time for the whole city and we are in full support of this production. We have been in contact with Mark and Anna over the past year, and we will make our resources available to them."

When asked why the duo chose to bring their production back to Rome, Mark stated, "With its rich history and endless support from local government officials, it was the perfect choice both business and financial wise." Mark, the son of Rose Casadei of New Hartford, also had a chance to bring his family onto the production. "My mother has always been 100% supportive of my goals and dreams with this and it means a lot to me now to be able to bring her on along with my sister, Pam." "We would not have been able to shoot our short film, "Legacy" starring Tom Proctor without her support."

The multi-million dollar production will feature stars such as actor James Russo from "Django Unchained" and Tom Proctor from "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "Birth of a Nation." It will co-star actor Basil Hoffman from "The Artist" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," along with Marilyn Ghigliotti from "Clerks" and "Lake Eerie." The film will be directed by Lance Kawas.

To stay up to date with the project visit, [Awesome Monkey Productions](#)

Meet the Faces Behind the Film

Mark and Anna Casadei (right) are the Rome Natives and the force behind bringing Hollywood to their hometown as the site for production *Murder Hill*.

Mark Casadei is the VP of Awesome Monkey Productions and the Producer and co-writer of *Murder Hill*. Mark served 21 years in the U.S. Air Force Space Program while participating with the Air Force Entertainment group. Mark is an

accomplished award-winning screenwriter and has received several awards, including the London Film Award for best TV pilot. He also authored the TV Pilot *Star Trek - Constellation* and has produced/directed several corporate commercials. Mark now



works closely with FireRock Bay Pictures and is currently represented by Paul C. Escoll of Escoll Management.

Anna Casadei is the CEO of Awesome Monkey Productions and the writer and co-producer of *Murder Hill*. As an award-winning screenwriter who has penned over a dozen scripts, she has several projects in various stages of development/production. Anna is an accomplished musician and has an impressive culinary background as a certified Sous-Chef. She has been requested to work with top studios and is now working closely with FireRock Bay Pictures. She is currently represented by Paul C. Escoll of Escoll Management.

In the Spotlight

Rome's Real Property Committee Over \$5 Million Back on City Tax Rolls Since 1998



Before

After

The *Real Property Committee (RPC)* defines their mission as rehabilitating tax-foreclosed properties in order to return them to the tax roll. The RPC entered into its first rehabilitation agreement on September 9, 1998. Since its inception, nearly 400 properties and vacant lots valued at over \$5 million in assessed value are back on the city tax rolls with a 95% rehabilitation agreement completion rate. Each year the city averages about twenty completed rehabs.

When these properties are placed on the market, the city emphasizes to prospective buyers the financial gain they may receive by rehabilitating a city owned property in comparison to going through a traditional realtor. The Real Property Committee chairman works hands-on with the prospective buyer and guides them through the entire process.

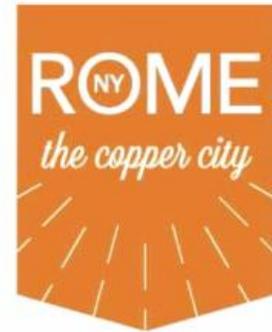
Dennis Gillen, a Housing Inspector for the City of Rome commented, "Every property is different but at the end of the process we hope to have a once blighted and neglected

property once again beautified from a curb appeal standpoint, and ultimately back on the tax rolls."

To view properties owned by the City of Rome visit, [Real Property Online Listings](#)

Upcoming Events

April 8th	April 12th	April 13th	April 29th
10AM-3PM CNY Health & Wellness Fair at J.F. Kennedy Civic Arena	10AM CNA Press Conference at City Hall in the Chambers	1PM City Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn of City Hall	10AM Rome Home Expo at J.F. Kennedy Civic Arena



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